

After a long lapse in my amateur license, I acquired my current callsign at what I believe was the last FCC administered amateur examination in St. Louis during August 1984. The rented space was crowded at this testing session, the FCC examiner was overworked, and her temporary help had not arrived. After I had passed my Extra Class exam elements, the examiner asked me if I wouldn't mind staying around to help process examinations. Since my 14 year old son was still busy taking his General Class exam, I obliged by helping to grade code tests for anxious applicants. I cherish this experience of being one of the first volunteer examiners for the amateur radio service.

I am, therefore, distressed by this petition by volunteer examiners who wish to remove the Morse code requirement entirely as a pre-requisite for HF amateur operation. As a College Professor with 20 years teaching experience, I know something about human learning. Maintaining a 5 word per minute Morse code requirement is not keeping large numbers of people from participating in the amateur service. On the contrary, only a tiny fraction of the human population is truly incapable of memorizing Morse Code at 5 words per minute. The FCC has, for many years, made reasonable accommodations for entry into the amateur service by those individuals who suffer handicaps that make Morse proficiency unattainable. I am in favor of maintaining a 5 word per minute Morse examination requirement as a pre-requisite for amateur HF privileges.

Respectfully submitted,

Charles J. Guenther, Jr.
Professor, Engineering & Technology
St. Louis Community College